

in the world, and we will have no budget this year. So what I have done and will continue to do is to produce a budget that balances in 5 years; this is consistent with the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

And the other reason we do 5 years is that some people have come forward in the past and said that we will balance it in 10. It becomes so long and unbelievable with the cuts in years 9 and 10 that they never happen; that it really hasn't become a good document even when budgets are put forward.

I think if we were to balance our budget, I think we would be a stronger Nation. It is the way we would combat inflation. If you see the people representing the party in power, the Democrats, you see them on TV, they are scratching their heads; they have no idea. They are like we have tried everything. But they don't even understand the problem. They have no idea where inflation is coming from.

Inflation comes from debt. When the Federal Reserve buys the debt, that creates the inflation. Because the Federal Reserve has no money, the money is printed up, and the money floods the system.

But it is also part of a bait and switch. These are people who run for office and say: We will bring you free things. We will bring you baubles. We will bring you manna. We will give you free stuff. We all instinctively know that nothing in life is really free.

So the free stuff that they are going to bring to you is paid for through inflation.

So we have to get away from this. We have to get to the point where we say that we are smarter than this. When a politician calls you up and says: Give me your Social Security number and I will send you a thousand dollars, that is what this is. It is an internet scam. It is a phone scam.

They are asking for your vote by saying: We are going to give you free stuff. There is no free lunch. There is nothing in life that you will get without working. But what we have done is political parties and politicians—sometimes in both parties—offer free stuff to people. But right now we are paying the penalty. We are paying the piper. We are paying the inflation tax.

And the inflation tax is a tax because we have overspent. Inflation will continue to get worse until we begin to reduce the debt. You have got to quit digging the hole. We have this massive hole of debt, and we have to quit digging the hole deeper. So this budget will be a budget that balances in 5 years, and I recommend a "yes" vote.

MOTION TO PROCEED

And with that, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 397, S. Con. Res. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 397, S. Con. Res. 41, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United

States Government for fiscal year 2023 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2024 through 2032.

VOTE ON MOTION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 29, nays 67, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 228 Leg.]

YEAS—29

Barrasso	Grassley	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Cassidy	Hoeben	Romney
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cramer	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Ernst	Lee	Tuberville
Fischer	Lummis	

NAYS—67

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt	Inhofe	Sasse
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boozman	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Burr	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Capito	Lujan	Smith
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McConnell	Thune
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Cooms	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Murkowski	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Graham	Portman	
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Daines	Toomey
Moran	Wicker

The motion was rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alan M. Leventhal, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Denmark.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, on the nomination.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

VOTE ON LEVENTHAL NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Leventhal nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 229 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Brown	Kaine	Rosen
Burr	Kelly	Rounds
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lujan	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Smith
Cooms	Markey	Stabenow
Cornyn	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeben	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Ernst	Lummis	Tillis
Fischer	Marshall	Tuberville
Grassley	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—5

Daines	Toomey	Wicker
Moran	Whitehouse	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The Senator from Arizona.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 903, Ventris C. Gibson, of Virginia, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ventris C. Gibson, of Virginia, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gibson nomination?

The nomination is confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

JOINT CONSOLIDATION LOAN
SEPARATION ACT

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1098, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1098) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the Warner substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5097), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act".

SEC. 2. SEPARATING JOINT CONSOLIDATION
LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 455(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking "A borrower" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A borrower"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) SEPARATING JOINT CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—

"(i) AUTHORIZATION.—A married couple, or 2 individuals who were previously a married couple, and who received a joint consolidation loan as such married couple under subparagraph (C) of section 428C(a)(3) (as such subparagraph was in effect on June 30, 2006), may apply to the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, for each individual borrower in the married couple (or previously married couple) to receive a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part.

"(ii) ELIGIBILITY FOR BORROWERS IN DEFAULT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a married couple, or 2 individuals who were previously a married couple, who are in default on a joint consolidation loan may be eligible to receive a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part in accordance with this paragraph.

"(B) SECRETARIAL REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 428C(a)(3)(A) or any other provision of law, for each individual borrower who applies under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

"(i) make a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part that—

"(I) shall be for an amount equal to the product of—

"(aa) the unpaid principal and accrued unpaid interest of the joint consolidation loan (as of the date that is the day before such separate consolidation loan is made) and any outstanding charges and fees with respect to such loan; and

"(bb) the percentage of the joint consolidation loan attributable to the loans of the individual borrower for whom such separate consolidation loan is being made, as determined—

"(AA) on the basis of the loan obligations of such borrower with respect to such joint consolidation loan (as of the date such joint consolidation loan was made); or

"(BB) in the case in which both borrowers request, on the basis of proportions outlined in a divorce decree, court order, or settlement agreement; and

"(II) has the same rate of interest as the joint consolidation loan (as of the date that is the day before such separate consolidation loan is made); and

"(ii) in a timely manner, notify each individual borrower that the joint consolidation loan had been repaid and of the terms and conditions of their new loans.

"(C) APPLICATION FOR SEPARATE DIRECT CONSOLIDATION LOAN.—

"(i) JOINT APPLICATION.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to receive separate consolidation loans under this part, both individual borrowers in a married couple (or previously married couple) shall jointly apply under subparagraph (A).

"(ii) SEPARATE APPLICATION.—An individual borrower in a married couple (or previously married couple) may apply for a separate consolidation loan under subparagraph (A) separately and without regard to whether or when the other individual borrower in the married couple (or previously married couple) applies under subparagraph (A), in a case in which—

"(I) the individual borrower certifies to the Secretary that such borrower—

"(aa) has experienced an act of domestic violence (as defined in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291) from the other individual borrower;

"(bb) has experienced economic abuse (as defined in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291) from the other individual borrower; or

"(cc) is unable to reasonably reach or access the loan information of the other individual borrower; or

"(II) the Secretary determines that authorizing each individual borrower to apply separately under subparagraph (A) would be in the best fiscal interests of the Federal Government.

"(iii) REMAINING OBLIGATION FROM SEPARATE APPLICATION.—In the case of an individual borrower who receives a separate consolidation loan due to the circumstances described in clause (ii), the other non-applying individual borrower shall become solely liable for the remaining balance of the joint consolidation loan."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 428C(a)(3)(B)(i)(V) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-3(3)(B)(i)(V)) is amended—

(1) by striking "or" at the end of item (bb);

(2) by striking the period at the end of item (cc) and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(dd) for the purpose of separating a joint consolidation loan into 2 separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loans under section 455(g)(2)."

The bill (S. 1098), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, introduced earlier today: S. Res. 679, S. Res. 680, and S. Res. 681.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 1057

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives a message from the House that it has passed H.R. 1057, and if the text of H.R. 1057 as passed is identical to S. 1596, that at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee, in consultation with the Republican leader, the bill be considered read a